MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

1 APRIL 1983

Lebanon

Tripartite Negotiations -- Israel and Lebanon have agreed that Israel will be able to conduct up to 10 mobilized patrols daily in the southern Lebanon security areas in conjunction with Lebanese Army officers, Jerusalem radio announced in a report on the outcome of the 31 March negotiations in Qiryat Shemona. The IDF patrols will be able to spend the night on Lebanese territory, the radio said, and no restrictions will be imposed on their movements to and from the area. Although the question of Major Sa'd Haddad's status remains open, Israel may compromise on this issue so long as Haddad is assured an "honorable" status, the radio said. Beirut radio subsequently noted the Israeli report on the agreement for joint patrols without confirming or denying its veracity. Earlier the Lebanese spokesman at Qiryat Shemona said progress was made in the negotiations but added that some differences in views persisted because Lebanon is concerned for its sovereignty, the radio reported. According to Jerusalem radio, the Lebanese spokesman told Israeli correspondents that Lebanon has "reached the limit" of its concessions, has nothing more to give, and will not compromise on anything concerning its sovereignty. Meanwhile, President Amin al-Jumayyil said in Beirut that Lebanon rejects a "dictated" peace, Beirut radio noted.

ADF Disbandment -- President al-Jumayyil has formally dissolved the Arab Deterrent Forces, AFP reported citing sources in Beirut. The decision will render the Syrian presence "de facto" and its only practical effect will be to restore to Lebanon buildings leased to the ADF, AFP noted.

Soldatov Remarks -- After meeting with the Lebanese foreign minister, Soviet Ambassador Aleksandr Soldatov denied that Soviet experts are in Lebanon and described the recent Soviet Government statement on the Middle East as a "clear warning" to Israel, according to reports by the clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio and AFP.

Military, Security Situation -- Israeli and Syrian forces in the Al-Biqa' area exchanged artillery fire during the night of 30 March and the Israelis subsequently reinforced their positions with heavy tanks, AFP reported. In other developments Voice of Lebanon radio broadcast a Phalangist Lebanese Forces statement warning the Progressive Socialist Party not to violate the Ash-Shuf cease-fire agreement and Maj Haddad announced that the 'free Lebanon" militia will henceforth "not be responsible for the safety of any member of UNIFIL." Haddad's statement, which was broadcast by Voice of Hope radio, came in response to the alleged murder of a Lebanese doctor by a Fijian UNIFIL soldier. In Beirut an explosion near a PLO industrial establishment caused heavy damage, the Voice of Lebanon reported on 1 April.

Israel

Begin on Soviet Warning, POW's -- "I do not think that Syria will attack us, and we definitely have no intention whatsoever of attacking Syria," Prime Minister Menahem Begin declared in a statement broadcast by Jerusalem radio. Speaking after discussing topical issues with Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres, Begin said Israelis should neither scoff nor panic at the recent Soviet threats and warnings, which "are founded on a completely artificial basis." He also described the current failure to secure the release of IDF POW's held by the PLO as a "very grave matter."

Reaction to Reagan Statement -- Responding to President Reagan's statement that the United States cannot supply Israel's new F-16's while the IDF remains in Lebanon, an Israeli political source cited by Jerusalem radio described Reagan's remarks as "very bizarre" since Israel's operation in Lebanon was only for "self-defense," adding that all talk about Israeli occupation is "infuriating."

West Bank -- Village League member 'Abd al-Lahib Ash'ar, the mukhtar of a village near Qalqilyah, was shot dead inside his car, ITIM reported. Earlier, Jerusalem radio reported that disturbances broke out in Tarqumiyah village following the death of an Arab youth on 30 March.

Syria

CPSU General Secretary Yuriy Andropov will pay an official visit to Syria in April, according to Cairo radio and QNA. Although both reports cited sources in Damascus, monitored Syrian and Soviet media have not mentioned any such visit by Andropov. Meanwhile Jerusalem radio cited an unconfirmed report by the London weekly AL-HAWADITH that the Soviet Union recently supplied Syria with SAM-11's and MIG-27's.

PLO Affairs

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Jordan on 31 March for a visit during which he will hold talks with King Husayn and senior Jordanian officials, Amman radio reported. The Higher Jordanian-Palestinian Committee subsequently met to review Jordanian-Palestinian relations and the "joint move within the Arab action," the radio noted. In a statement broadcast by Amman television, 'Arafat said the Jordanian-Palestinian talks will focus on details of a joint stand and he reemphasized the PNC's commitment to a confederal union with Jordan. Palestinian sources cited by Radio Monte Carlo and AFP affirmed that the PLO will not for the time being agree to the formation of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to participate in possible peace negotiations.

In another development leaders of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, As-Sa'iqah, and the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front arrived in Libya, according to JANA.

Gulf Pollution

Environment ministers from Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, the UAE, and Bahrain will meet in Kuwait on 6 April to discuss the pollution caused by oil leaking from Iran's Nowruz field, WAKH reported. Experts from the countries will meet in Bahrain on 4 April to prepare a report on the situation for the ministers. According to another WAKH report, Qatar has decided to construct a barrier to protect Doha from the slick, which is approaching Qatar's coast.

Algerian-Moroccan Relations

The Algerian and Moroccan interior ministers began talks in Algiers on 30 March, APS reported. They agreed to work toward measures "capable of speeding up the establishment of the Arab Maghreb" and confirmed the need for cooperation and the resumption of bilateral exchanges at all levels, according to a related MAP report.

Egypt

Mubarak Far East Visit -- President Husni Mubarak left for Beijing on the first leg of a tour during which he will visit the PRC, DPRK, Japan, and Indonesia, Cairo radio reported.

Cancellation of Bishops' Expulsion -- The authorities canceled the decision to expel five Greek Orthodox bishops after Patriarch Alexander Nicolas VI withdrew his request for their expulsion, AFP reported citing a Cairo diplomatic source.

Sudan

Security police arrested six Libyan agents at Sudanese border posts, SUNA reported.

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FATHERLAND FRONT ADDRESSES LETTER TO PEREZ DE CUELLAR

LD311704 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Open letter addressed to UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar from DRA National Fatherland Front -- date not given]

[Text] The DRA National Fatherland Front, which has united all strata of Afghan society and reflects the interests of the people of Afghanistan, wants to draw the attention of the secretary general to all the unprecedented interference in the internal affairs of Afhgnaistan, a sovereign UN member, which has been continued by the Ronald Reagan administration and is an open violation of the UN Charter, aims, and principles.

The aim of the slanderous propaganda issued by the White House on the occasion of the so-called Afghan Day and the provocative statement by Ronald Reagan is designed solely to encourage mercenaries and murderers to commit further crimes against the innocent people of Afghanistan and to cover the direct participation of international imperialism and reaction, headed by the United States, in the undeclared war against revolutionary Afghanistan.

We once again state that the national democratic April Revolution is a result of the natural development of the Afghan society and has been brought to victory in accordance with the will of the people of Afghanistan. The people of Afghanistan, arms in hand, defend the gains of the revolution which has attained eternal victory and nothing will be able to force the people of Afghanistan to abandon the path they have chosen.

Our people are not alone in their sacred struggle. Our great northern neighbor, the Soviet Union, and all progressive forces of the world are on our side.

We desire only to live in peace and in friendship with our neighbors and all countries of the world, to overcome as soon as possible the poverty and backwardness bequeathed to us by the past despotic regimes, and to bring prosperity to our country.

Mr Reagan who hypocritically expresses his sympathy for the people of Afghanistan, in practice, makes every effort for the continuation of bloodshed and subversion in Afghanistan. This provocative adventure of Mr Reagan will once again result in the shedding of blood of innocent Afghans, arson, and the destruction of mosques, hospitals, factories, and farms.

The Central Council of the DRA National Fatherland Front, while resolutely condemning the reckless interference of the U.S. President in our domestic affairs, asks you, Mr Secretary General, to make use of your authority and influence to put an end to the vain aggressive aims of the United States against the DRA.

[Signed] Saleh Mohammad Ziray, chairman of Central Council of DRA National Fatherland Front

FOREIGN MINISTER DEPARTS FOR GROUP OF 77 MEETING

LD311517 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] Shah Mohammad Dost, minister of foreign affairs, this morning left for Argentina at the head of a delegation to the Group of 77 countries' conference which is being held in Buenos Aires 28 March-9 April. He was seen off at Kabul airport by the deputy foreign ministers, deputy chief of protocol, and several high-ranking officials.

ANDROPOV ACCEPTS 'IN PRINCIPLE' INVITATION TO VISIT

OW311407 Hong Kong AFP in English 1354 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] New Delhi, March 31 (AFPO -- The Soviet leader, Yuri Andropov has accepted in principle an invitation from Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to visit India, it was stated in parliament today.

Foreign Miniaster P.V. Narasimha Rao told the lower house the visit was expected to take place at a mutually convenient date.

POLICE BATTLE WITH 'AGITATORS' IN PUNJAB

BK010310 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 1 Apr 83

[Text] In Punjab about two dozen persons, including seven policemen, were injured when police burst tear gas shells and resorted to lathi charge to disperse unruly agitators at Patiala and Hoshiarpur yesterday. According to an official spokesman, the police had to act when the agitators tried to break through the police cordon and started pelting stones. The agitation was organized by the state Kisan Sabha [Farmers Association].

Bombs Explode in Market

BK310300 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] In Punjab two persons were injured in (Mbkerian) in Hoshiarpur District when three country-made bombs exploded in a market last evening. According to an official spokesman, one of the injured is the son of the state finance minister, Dr Kewal Krishna.

TWO KILLED IN CLASHES WITH POLICE IN ALIGARH

BK310918 Hong Kong AFP in English 0902 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] New Delhi, March 31 (AFP) -- At least two people were killed including one in police firing and six others injured in clashes at Aligarh city, in Uttar Pradesh, about 200 kms south of Delhi, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA reported today.

After the incidents late last evening and this morning, the authorities today imposed an indefinite curfew in different parts of the city which has a mixed Hindu-Moslem population.

The second victim was shot dead by troublemakers in the Charra Adda area, PTI said. The difficulty started when some Hindu religious processionists suddenly tried to change the police-approved route of the procession and the police contingent objected.

The processionists then began throwing stones and the police led a baton charge and fired seven rounds in the air to disperse the crowd. Some policemen were injured, the report said.

It was not known whether clashes had any Hindu-Moslem communal involvement.

Heavy police patrolling continues and a number of armed police pickets have been set up in sensitive areas, the report added.

Curfew Relaxed

BK010950 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 1 Apr 83

[Text] The situation in Aligarh is fast improving. The Uttar Pradesh chief minister, Mr Sripati Misra, told newsmen in Lucknow today that the curfew was relaxed in two localities for 5 hours from 1000 to 1500. He said no incident has been reported from any part of the city since yesterday; 57 arrests has been made so far in connection

REPORTS CITED ON DEATH TOLL FROM KAMRUP BOMBING

BK010815 Hong Kong AFP in English 0738 GMT 1 Apr 83

[Text] New Delhi, April 1 (AFP) -- Prime Minister Indira Gandhi today was winding up a three-day tour of Assam State marred by a bomb attack that lengthened thelong list of victims from two months of clashes between natives and immigrants.

THE INDIAN EXPRESS newspaper said today that the death toll had risen to 23 in Wednesday's bomb attack on the Hajo market in Kamrup District that came as Mrs Gandhi arrived in Assam with promises to restore order.

Indian news agencies had said last night that 18 people died in the blast from one of three bombs that went off in the crowded market about 40 kms (25 miles) north of Gauhati, capital of the northeast state bordering Bangladesh.

The attack occurred as Mrs Gandhi's military helicopter touched down at a refugee camp south of Gauhati on the first day of her visit to Assam where violence has left more than 3,000 people dead and 300,000 homeless since February. The government has denied opposition estimates of 10,000 dead.

Correspondents in Assam said the latest attack on Bengali Moslems had left tension high in Kamrup District, scene of some of the worst bloodshed in the state sparked by an anti-immigrant movement by native Assamese.

Two new incidents were reported yesterday. A railroad track was sabotaged outside Gauhati, triggering an accident that injured five people, including three policemen. An arson attack on a warehouse also destroyed tens of thousands of dollars in goods.

Mrs Gandhi headed for upper Assam today after spending the night in Dibrugarh where she was greeted by a ghost town with lights out, shutters closed and black flags of mourning flying. She had a similar reception the night before in Gauhati.

Earlier today, the prime minister visited relief camps and rehabilitation sites in Lakhimpur District where she reiterated her pledge to provide security and relief so refugees could return to their homes, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA reported.

Apart from those who led the state, there are some 230,000 people sheltered in about 30 makeshift camps spread over Assam or jammed together in rural schools, journalists said. The food and medical situation is reportedly critical.

Unprecedented security, including paramilitary forces, security guards and federal agents, was arranged for Mrs Gandhi's third visit to Assam since the outbreak of violence triggered by state elections held in February.

The balloting sparked protests by Assamese militants who are demanding the deportation of some five million immigrants from Bangladesh and Nepal and who objected to the presence of "foreigners" on the voting rolls. Mrs Gandhi did not mention the immigrant question during her tour.

Newspapers in New Delhi said that the situation was increasingly slipping out of control and the moderate elements among the All Assam Students Union and the Assam Peoples Action Council, which are spearheading the anti-immigrant drive, were isolated.

INDIRA GANDHI CONCLUDES VISIT TO ASSAM

Promises Security

BK311605 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] Prime Minister Gandhi has assured the people affected by the recent disturbances in Assam that the government is committed to provide security to all communities. On the 2d day of her tour of Assam, Gandhi want around several relief camps and rehabilitation sites in the worst affected Darrang and Nowgong Districts in last month's riots. She assured the inmates that the government would try to create a congenial atmosphere among all sections so that the affected people can return to their hearths and homes at the earliest and resume normal activity. Gandhi stressed the need to restore confidence among all sections of the people of Assam after last month's happenings.

Accompanied by Chief Minister Hiteshwar Saikia and the union minister of state for home affairs, N.R. Laskar, the prime minister began her visit this morning at Chawlkhowa rehabilitation center in Darrang District. She told them that the government would do everything possible for their speedy rehabilitation. From there she flew into Khoirabari relief camp and spoke to the campt inmates. She also attended a brief function there and distrubited relief materials to the victims. Later, she went round relief camps at (Nagabandha) and (Madhopara) in Nowdong District.

Addressing the inmates at (Kokilla) relief camp, 45 kms from Itanagar, Gandhi said she came all the way from Delhi only to express her sympathy to the affected people of Assam. What happened there is regrettable, she said. Gandhi also addressed soldiers at Tepur and appreciated their performance in guarding the international border and also assisting the civil administration to maintain law and order in all eventualities.

At Dibrugarh, where she will stay overnight, several delegations from different sections of the people called on her. They urged her to intensify security measures and provide adequate relief to the affected people. They also requested her to take measures for the solution of the foreigners issue. Later, she addressed Congress-I workers and asked them to work unitedly for the restoration of normal situation in Assam to enable different communities to live in peace.

Leaves for Delhi

BK010910 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 1 Apr 83

[Text] The prime minister left Chabua in Dibrugarh District for New Delhi this morning at the end of her 3-day visit to Assam. Before her departure, Mrs Gandhi visited relief camps and rehabilitation sites at (Shilapathar), (Chimanchapari) and Bharatpur in Lakhimpur District. The prime minister talked to the inmates of the camps and reiterated her assurance to provide security and relief so that the affected people could go back to their homes. Mrs Gandhi was accompanied by the state chief minister, Mr Hiteshwar Saikia, the union minister of state for home, Mr N.R. Laskar, and high civil and police officials.

ZIAUL HAQ'S REMARKS ON MUSLIMS PROTESTED

OW311415 Hong Kong AFP in English 1404 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] New Delhi, March 31 (AFP) -- India today voiced strong disapproval of a recent statement reportedly made by Pakistani President Ziaul Haq that one hundred million Moslems in this country felt so insecure that they were afraid of disclosing their identity.

The joint secretary in the Indian Foreign Office, S.K. Lambha, summoned in Pakistani Embassy official S.K. Dehlavi and asked him for an authentic version of General Ziaul Haq reported remarks while addressing a social workers' conference near Karachi last Monday.

A Foreign Office spokesman told the press that the Indian charge d'affairs in Islamabad had also been directed to take up the matter with the Pakistani Foreign Office and to send the text of the Pakistan president's speech.

RAO ON ENVOY'S MEETING WITH U.S. CONGRESSMEN

BK311442 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao clarified in the Lok Sabha today that India's ambassador to the United States did not meet even informally any congressional committee as reported in a newspaper. In a statement, he said the ambassador did meet informally a few members of the congress on the 24th of this month. Of the five congressmen present only one belongs to the international organization on human rights subcommittee. All the others belong to the Foreign Relations Committee or its Asian and Pacific Relations Subcommittee.

The external affairs minister said it is common practice in Washington for an ambassador to meet congressmen to discuss with them and give them factual account about matters of current interest. Our ambassador has accordingly been meeting congreemen informally on appropriate occasions. For instance when the arms package to Pakistan was under discussion in the U.S. congress, our ambassador explained India's stand on the matter to the congressmen. At the meeting on the 24th the Indian ambassador gave the congressmen the historical background of the Assam problem, recent developments in the state and the steps taken by the government. Rao described it as a perfectly legitimate, normal and necessary activity. The press report appeared in a manner contrary to facts he added.

BORDER TALKS WITH BANGLADESH BEGIN IN DELHI

BK310555 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] The 3-day Indo-Bangladesh border talks began in New Delhi this morning. It is discussing, among other things, mutual problems on the common border. The Indian side to the talks is led by the director general of border security force, (Birbal Nath), while the Bangladesh delegation is led by the director general, Bangladesh Rifles, Major General (Ghulam Muqtadi). The high-level seven-member Bangladesh delegation arrive in the capital yesterday.

ZIAUL HAQ SENDS GREETINGS TO IRAN'S KHAMENE'I

BK010606 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 1 Apr 83

[Text] President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq has greeted President 'Ali Khamene'i on the occasion of the Republic Day of Iran. In his congratulatory message, the president said the people of Pakistan possess very friendly and fraternal feelings for their Iranian brethren, with whom they are bound by the bonds of Islam. He expressed the hope that the relationship between the two countries, which has stood every test of time, will continue to grow stronger in the years to come.

BENAZIR BHUTTO SAYS MARTIAL LAW NOT ISLAMIC

BK291708 Hong Kong AFP in English 1656 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] Karachi, March 29 (AFP) -- Benazir Bhutto, daughter of executed former Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, charged here today that the military regime of President Mohammad Ziaul Haq had deprived civilian courts of their powers.

Giving evidence as a defence witness in a sedition trial before a military court, Miss Bhutto, 30, said that martial law was opposed to Islamic tenets as well as to the 1973 Constitution.

She argued that martial law courts had no validity and no legal authority to hold trails.

No reporters were permitted inside the court room today, although the trial is supposed to be public. A summary of Miss Bhutto's testimony was later given to press by her lawyer.

Miss Bhutto, who has been under house arrest for the past two years because of her opposition to the regime, was brought to the court under police escort.

She was giving evidence in the trial of six communists.

NATIONAL PARTY TO ORGANIZE MASS STRUGGLE

BK300355 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] The banned Pakistan National Party has announced plans to organize mass struggle for the restoration of the democratic process, the rule of law and a representative form of government in the country. This was disclosed to newsmen by the party secretary general in Lahore after a 2-day meeting of the party central working committee.

GENERAL TIKKA KHAN ON MILITARY IN POLITICS

BK291408 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] A former commander in chief of Pakistan Army, general Tikka Khan, has opposed the constitutional role of the Armed Forces in the government and their involvement in politics. Talking to newsmen in Attock, he criticized the ban imposed on the movement of politicians in the country.

General Tikka, who is now the (?additional) secretary general of the Pakistan People's Party, said such restriction goes against the integrity of the country.

VELAYATI CONFERS WITH SYRIAN MINISTERS 31 MARCH

LD010021 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] The Syrian trade and oil ministers this afternoon met and conferred with Iranian Foreign Affairs Minister Velayati. During this meeting, while stressing the expansion of relations between the two countries, Velayati said: Our relations with Syria are strategic and we view the political, economic, trade, and cultural relations between the two countries as strategic.

The Syrian oil minister explained the importance of the relations between the two countries and asked for the assistance of the Islamic Republic of Iran in possible technological fields.

At the conclusion of this meeting, Velayati replied to a question by our correspondent on the joint conspiracy by imperialism and Zionism in the planned attack of the occupying regime of Jerusalem on Syria and said: Syria is the only frontline country that is resisting and is steadfast against the aggressions of the Zionist regime. By resorting to various conspiracies and committing various crimes such as attacking Lebanon and reaching a compromise on the Palestine problem, imperialism and Zionism so far have reached their goals. Therefore, they have now raised the issue of the possible attack by the Zionist regime against Syria. By doing so, they are trying to implement their conspiracy, that is, the withdrawal of the Syrian forces from Lebanon.

Our country's minister of foreign affairs added: We condemn such conspiracies and once again announce our unstinting support for the nation and government of the friendly and brother country Syria in its struggle against the regime usurping Jerusalem and in its resistance against the conspiracies of imperialism and Zionism. We announce that the Zionist occupiers should leave Lebanon and all the occupied territories instead of the Syrian forces which are there legally to support the people of Lebanon and Palestine.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE NO 1,265

LD311829 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Communique No 1,265 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran begs to congratulate the blessed presence of the holy Al-Mahdi, lord of the era -- may God Almighty hasten his honorable advent -- and Imam Khomeyni, great leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and all our dear compatriots and selfless combatants of Islam on the occasion of God's day, 1 April, the anniversary of the inception of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the establishment of the Islamic system, and beseech the one God to grant the speediest victory to Islam's combatants over the Saddamist blasphemers and the Iraqi Ba'thist aggressors.

Dear compatriots, you hereby are informed of the outcome of the battle waged by Islam's warriors during the past 24 hours. In the past 24 hours, fighting continued on the country's western fronts with an exchange of artillery and heavy weapons fire between Islam's victorious combatants and the declining Saddamist mercenaries.

The exchange of fire in the Mehran region was greater than that on other fronts. The losses suffered by the Iraqi forces on the western fronts included the destruction or disabling of at least five vehicles, the destruction of three tanks and APC's, and the destruction of an appreciable number of foxholes and trenches. On these fronts, Islam's combatants killed 25 Saddamist mercenaries.

In the (Kamarchin) region, Islam's combatants opened opened heavy and continous artillery fire on the positions, units, and equipment of the Saddamist forces and destroyed one assembly building, three engineering vehicles, and several foxholes and trenches of the Saddamist mercenaries and killed or wounded more than 40 of the Saddamist blasphemious forces. Enemy ambulances were busy for many hours evacuating their wounded and killed.

On the Marivan front, Islam's combatants smashed part of the enemy's positions in the (Haft Tavanan) region and destroyed several observation posts and light and heavy weapons emplacements of the Iraqi forces.

On the southern fronts, Islam's selfless combatants defended their positions, sent out patrols, and opened effective and accurate artillery fire on the positions of the Iraqi forces on the western bank of the Arvand Rud, depriving them of any mobility or activity. They inflicted heavy losses and casualties on the Saddamist mercenaries.

On one of the southern fronts, Islam's selfless, intrepid combatants carried out four successful missions and deeply penetrated the defensive positions of the Iraqi forces, inflicting telling and crushing blows on the Saddamist aggressors' reserve and missile and antiaircraft units.

On the Abadan front, the Gendarmerie combatants opened fire on the positions and fortifications of the Iraqi forces on the opposite bank of the Arvand Rud and caused on of their ammunition dumps to explode. They also destroyed several weapons emplacements and observation posts of the Saddamist mercenaries and killed a number of the enemy.

During the past 24 hours, the cities of Abadan and Sar-e Pol-e Zahab were subjected to the artillery fire of the criminal Saddamist mercenaries. As a result, five houses were destroyed and one of our dear compatriots was wounded in Abadan.

Yesterday, several raiding aircraft of the aggressive Armed Forces of Iraq intended to intrude into the airspace of the border regions in the western and southern parts of the country. However, our selfless Air Force pilots and antiaircraft units opened defensive fire and drove away the raiding enemy aircraft.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

IRAQI MUJAHIDIN CLAIM RESPONSIBILITY FOR BLAST

GF301706 Tehran IRNA in English 1613 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] Ahvaz, March 30 IRNA -- The recent explosion of the Iraqi airways central office in Baghdad took place on the occasion of the martyrdom anniversary of the late Ayatollah Sayyid Muhammad Baqir as-Sadr and his sister Bint al-Huda, announced the spokesman for the Iraqi Muslim mujahidin here.

He said the explosion also marked the anniversary of the Martyr Samir Nur 'Ali operation. Samir Nur 'Ali was martyred when he attacked Tariq Mikha'il Hanna 'Aziz in Baghdad's Mustansiriyah University.

Adding that the operations had not inflicted any harm on anybody, he said these operations will continue until the complete overthrow of Saddam's regime. In conclusion, as a warning to regimes which support the moribund regime of Saddam, he said if they continue to do so, similar destructive measures will be carried out against their interests all over the world.

IRAQ, U.S., FRANCE, EGYPT BLAMED FOR OIL SLICK

GF010804 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1750 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The Iraqi rulers have given another example of their rancor toward the peoples of the Persian Gulf region. After the series of explosions in Kuwait and the UAE, after repeated Iraqi bombing of Kuwaiti installations, after the region came under threat of blatant aggression, the Iraqi rulers launched a war against the Islamic Republic. After all their crimes, they have committed another crime which will be added to their black record which is already full of blood, whips, and terrorism, as if all their crimes were not enough and as if they cannot appease their rancorous hearts.

The new crime is being committed against more than 30 million people living on the eastern Gulf coast; their life is in danger as a result of the pollution from the Ba'thist aggression against the Nowruz oilfield in the Persian Gulf [words indistinct] on the Gulf waters to prevent any environmental pollution threat.

The pressing question is: Who was behind the bombing of the Nowruz oilfield and who benefited from this operation? Surely, the Iraqi rulers were not behind this operation alone; they are not the partners in the crime [as heard]. Fingers point to the United States. Washington wants to see the Gulf region in a continuous state of turmoil and confusion to justify keeping its aggressive forces close by in Oman, Egypt and Somalia and to increase its military preparations for the Rapid Deployment Force. After all, the Gulf region is considered one of the most vital spots in the world for U.S. interests and Washington considers itself responsible for protecting these interests through direct military and political intervention. Therefore, this policy has been in need of a godfather who can provide the appropriate political circumstances for the U.S. intervention in the region. Saddam, the head of the ruling regime in Baghdad, was this godfather who put himself at the service of his American masters and employed all his energies to fulfill this strategic goal in the U.S. policy. That is why he launched the war against the Islamic Republic and repeatedly tried to kindle the fire to engulf other Gulf areas. He also turned the Gulf waters into a battlefield. All this was done with continued support of the United States and its Western European allies and through the direct interference of French military experts and Egyptian pilots.

Some people try to depict the Iraqi rulers as story-book heroes through this operation. We tell these people that the Iraqi rulers are not strong and that bombing an oilfield which is more than 100 km away from the Islamic coast does not demonstrate strength, if we take into consideration that the operation was executed by French expertise and foreign pilots.

Those who try to depict the Iraqi rulers in a position of strength should remember the chain of events and ponder over the disgraceful defeats of these rulers in the important military positions in Dezful, Shush, and Khorramshahr. There, on the battlefield, a man shows whether he is strong or weak.

As for the other part of the question -- who benefited from this inhuman operation? -- it is the enemies of the Muslim peoples who found in the Iraqi rulers an easy tool to fulfill their evil intentions and the dead conscience ready to do anything of any kind [word indistinct]. The Muslim peoples in the region are called on to (?expose the acts of terrorism) aimed at their lives and also at disturbing their rest. They are called on to pressure their governments to reveal facts and answer the question which the governments have repeatedly avoided answering: Who constitutes a threat against the region, the Islamic Republic, the republic of the oppressed, or the tyrant ruler in Baghdad?

Is it not enough for the rulers that the threat lies in Baghdad and to be more specific in the hulagu [Mogul invader of Iraq] of Iraq who is full of hatred and malice against the Muslim peoples? The Gulf press should also unmask the Iraqi rulers. Let the interest of the region's peoples take preference over checks and money deals. Let this press tell the truth and honestly and truthfully answer this question: Who is responsible for the threat posed to the peoples of the Islamic region? There is now no possibility of (?stopping this threat).

NATEQ-NURI ON AFGHAN TREATMENT, DOMESTIC ISSUES

GF311430 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 16 Mar 83 p 2

[Text] Five members of the UN's World Food Council, who visited Iran last week in connection with the study of food supply to the Afghan refugees, met Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri, the minister of interior. Referring to the steps taken by the Islamic Republic in supporting the refugees, they told him that the support given by Iran was beyond the normal limit and asked him to reduce such aid. In a special interview with our correspondent, Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri, while announcing this news, said: This delegation visited a number of cities where our refugee and homeless Afghan brothers and sisters live, has made inquiries about their living and food conditions, and has collected information on the status of most of them.

The interior minister added: At the end of their visit, these people confirmed the authenticity of our statements with respect to the number of the refugees and the homeless Afghans and their food and economic conditions. They said the lives of the homeless Afghan people in Iran are far better than the lives of the Afghan people in Afghanistan. They even asked us why we were so hospitable to the Afghan people and why the food consumed by the Afghans in these camps is better than what they ate in Tehran. Subsequently, they asked us to reduce the aid.

In this interview, Mr Nateq-Nuri replied to a number of other questions fielded by our correspondent. Regarding the implementation of the plan to identify these Afghans, which was to take effect from 10 March, he said: Implementation of the plan has been deferred until the end of the Nowruz holidays and the political deputies in the governorates general will be responsible for the implementation of this plan throughout the country. This subject was fully discussed and explained in the seminar which was held for this very purpose in the ministry.

He added: There are miscreants and spies among the Afghans living in Iran and the implementation of this plan will help identify them. Since every Afghan will own an identity card when this plan is implemented, bonafide Afghans will be separated from fraudulent Afghans.

Regarding the integration of the traffic department with the police department, the interior minister said: The traffic officials are, in fact, policemen, and their grades, promotions, and all their personnel matters are supervised by the police although they work under the administrative control of the municiplaity. It is natural that lack of coordination may occur in an organization whose links and functions fall under the jurisdiction of one department, while the supervision of its duties falls under the jurisdiction of another. The interior minister then expressed his satisfaction over the functioning of the traffic department.

Regarding the position of the central cadre of the hypocrites in Tehran, he said: Subsequent to the loss of its most important members and elements, including Musa Kheyabani, during the discovery of the teamhouses one after the other in Tehran, the hypocrite organization considered it better to head the provinces in the country. But our brothers in other cities, as you know, have been successful in crushing the hypocrites and discovery of the teamhouses in Hormozgan and Bandar 'Abbas proves this fact. The activities of the hypocrites, therefore, have come to an end. Regarding the propaganda they have let loose, it is nothing but a despicable effort.

NVOI COMMENTARY CRITICIZES IRAN'S AFGHAN POLICY

TA190534 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1730 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Unattributed commentary: "It Is Beneath Dignity of Islamic Republic of Iran To Be in Same Axis With America on Afghan Problem"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: Some time ago the prime minister, in a seminar examining Afghan immigrants' issues, talked of the need to deal in a comprehensive manner with the question of Afghans residing in Iran, and among other things said: As long as the Afghan people are not able to determine their own destiny, the issue of Afghan immigrants will naturally continue for our country.

A short while after the above-mentioned seminar, a statement about the Afghan immigrants was issued by the Ministry of the Interior in which an explanation was also given regarding the various aspects of the question of Afghans residing in Iran and about their settlement as arranged by the Ministry of the Interior.

At the same time during and following the Nonaligned Conference, the Iranian delegation raised the Afghan problem and the issue of the Afghan immigrants residing in Iran.

Amid all this came the visit by one of the leaders of the Afghan murdering bands to Iran, the welcoming ceremonies held upon his arrival, and his speech at the grand mosque of Qom, which also coincided with certain tumults that our country's propaganda media generated. In addition to this, we are refraining from any comment about the talks that were held during the visits by Mr Salamati, the minister of agriculture and ruraal development, to Zahedan and Sistan. During all this time the Islamic Republic of Iran's propaganda organization, which derives and prepares the reports about Afghanistan from imperialist news sources, intensified its dissemination of rumors. Of course, as the dear compatriots are aware, in all these instances the issue of the presence of limited units of Soviet military forces was the main theme.

The fact that recently in our homeland the question of the Afghan immigrants residing in Iran, and generally the Afghan problem, has been raised with such an intensity and vehemence is extremely worrisome. It is worrisome not because these clamors and writings by the journalistic Keshmiris and repetition of rumors of imperialist news by the voice and vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran have or can have any effect on the process of the Afghan people's revolution and its expansion and development, but because there are some indications and evidence a number of individuals are leading our homeland to the brink of imperialist plots.

The policy which some persons in the Islamic Government have been pursuing for some time with respect to Afghanistan is harmonious, in all its specific aspects, with the policy of U.S. imperialism. U.S. policy toward Afghanistan is not amazing or astonishing in the least because such a policy toward a people's progressive movement stems from the imperialist nature of this great satan. America has adopted such a policy toward our homeland, Iran, as well. This too stems from the popular and anti-imperialist nature of the Iranian revolution. What is in this attitude that can cause amazement or astonishment?

Now let us consider the attitude of Afghanistan's democratic government toward the Iranian revolution. Afghanistan, with pure and friendly sentiments, has always defended and continues to defend Iran's popular and anti-imperialist revolution. This too stems from the nature of the truly popular and anti-imperialist revolution of that country. Here, the only thing that can cause astonishment is the very attitude of the Islamic government toward the Afghan revolution. The thing that intensifies this amazement is the attitude of this government toward the Afghan counterrevolution and murdering bands, bands whose direct link with the CIA is no longer doubtful to any one, bands which are equipped by America with various weapons, and finally bands and counterrevolutionaries that have been granted the title of so-called Islamic strugglers both by America and the Islamic government. This is why we have said that U.S. policy and Iran's Islamic Government's policy with respect to the Afghan problem are astonishingly harmonious in their specific aspects.

As we are aware, several days ago someone by the name of Mir-hamzeh, who is one of the leaders of Afghan murdering bands, said during a press conference with domestic and foreign correspondents that since a year ago Iran had been supplying chemical weapons to these bands. Which Iranian circles supplied the Afghan murdering bands with these weapons, which are employed to poison the people and the environment? Is our government participating in an undeclared war against our neighboring country, Afghanistan? On what ground and by which international standard can such inadmissable interventions in the internal affairs of a neighboring country be justified? Of course, responsibility for the scandal of such a shameful and inhuman act cannot be laid on the struggling Iranian nation or the entire Islamic leadership.

In these very days another rally was held in Zahedan which if one impartially judges its slogans and speeches is another proof of the Iranian Government's interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs. In this rally too there was talk of the presence of the limited Soviet military units in Afghanistan. Everyone is aware that the limited units of Soviet military forces arrived in Afghanistan in accordance with the request of the legitimate Afghan Government and on the basis of the UN Charter for the purpose of defending the Afghan people's independence and national sovereignty and for repelling interventions and subversive activities from abroad.

Mr Babrak Karmal, head of the Democratic Government of Afghanistan, has repeatedly said that as long as the plots and interventions of foreign countries in Afghanistan's internal affairs are not halted, and reliable international guarantees are not given in this respect to the Afghan Government, the limited units of Soviet military forces will remain in Afghanistan upon the request of that country's government.

Therefore one should ask those who raise the issue of the Soviet military presence in Afghanistan with so much fanfare. As long as the reason for such a military presence is the very interventions of foreign countries in Afghanistan's affairs, you who want an end to this military presence, why do you interfere in Afghan affairs? Why do you stage rallies? Who do you defend the Afghan bands? Why do you supply them with chemical weapons? And why are you throwing yourselves with so much fervor and enthusiasm into the trap of the plots of U.S. imperialism, which according to Imam Khomeyni is bent on setting the whole world on fire and is the prime plotter?

The creation and establishment of good relations between Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran, in which the people of both countries have raised the anti-imperialist struggle, is the guarantee for the victory of these people and for the consolidation of the foundation of the independence of both countries. Procrastination in this respect is only to the benefit of the world-devouring U.S. imperialists.

AFGHAN REBELS ATTACK GOVERNMENT POSITIONS

LD292140 Tehran IRNA in English 1920 GMT 29 Mar 83

["Afghan Mujahideen Pummel Government Positions" -- IRNA headline]

[Text] Mashhad, March 29 IRNA -- The Afghan Muslim mujahideen fighting the Soviet backed regime of Afghanistan, attacked fortified positions of the Afghan Government forces in Herat area, last week killing 24 of them and capturing six others.

In this attack, the mujahideen seized a large number of munitions but three of them were martyred.

OFFICIAL SAYS 100 'COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES' KILLED

LD310647 Tehran IRNA in English 2006 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] Sanandaj, March 30 IRNA -- In last week clashes the Islamic combatants killed 100 counterrevolutionaries, said Hashemi, political deputy of Kordestan's governor general.

Among those killed were ranking counterrevolutionaries, added Hashemi who was speaking in a ceremony commemorating the martyrs of Kordestan. He also expressed the hope that the counterrevolutionaries would be eradicated from that region.

KHUZESTAN GOVERNORATE ADVISES AGAINST MARCHES

GF301620 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Statement issued by office of the Khuzestan governor general -- date not given]

[Text] In His exalted nmae. While appreciating the selfless support of the martyr-nurturing and [word indistinct] nation in upholding the noble Islamic principles and carrying out the campaign against vice, and considering the fact that the issue of women's Islamic dress code or lack thereof as well as all cases offending public sensibilities has become an offense punishable by law and dealt with decisively on the orders of judicial and law enforcement officials, and considering the fact that some opportunist elements intend to misuse some issues, the hezbollahi nation are requested to refrain from any marches or acts which may create disturbances and provide an excuse to the counterrevolution to weaken the Islamic Revolution and also to aid officials in carrying out their duties by complete adherence to the law.

[Signed] Khuzestan governor general's office